

AFTER A SEXUAL ASSAULT
Rape Crisis Center, Inc.
Dane County, Wisconsin

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet was written to provide information about the medical and legal options available to adult victims of sexual assault. While the majority of victims are female, males are also victims of sexual assault. Throughout this booklet, victims are referred to as “she”, but the booklet’s information pertains to male victims also.

If you or someone you know has been assaulted, you will find useful information concerning medical and emotional follow-up care and the legal system. You don’t need to receive any medical or legal help alone. A counselor from the Rape Crisis Center is available 24-hours a day to be with you through any of these procedures. You may also request that a friend or relative be with you.

If at any point you don’t understand what’s happening or why – please ask. Anyone working with you as the result of the sexual assault wants to provide the best service possible.

FOLLOW-UP HEALTH CARE

Medical Examination - If you were sexually assaulted, a medical exam is recommended to take care of your health care needs. A Health Care provider will be able to check for any injuries or infections that might be present as a result of the assault. Not all injuries may be evident to you, so for your well-being a medical exam is recommended if you have been assaulted.

There are many options to receiving this exam. Your primary health care provider, community clinic or (in cases of urgency) a hospital emergency room can provide medical follow-up.

Psychological reactions: There is no “right way” for a victim to react in the immediate aftermath of a sexual assault: you may feel and appear numb and dazed; you may be calm and controlled; or you may react by expressing intense emotions. All of these reactions are normal. Following an assault, it is not unusual to experience intrusive thoughts and feelings, confusion, sleep disturbances, loss of appetite, nausea and gagging, uncontrolled crying or laughing, and emotions such as fear, guilt, anger, and distrust. You may withdraw from family and friends, feel a loss of the ability to have fun, lose interest in your usual pursuits, and you may avoid intimate contact and be unable to experience sexual pleasure. These reactions may continue for days, weeks, or months; they may reappear at a later date, possibly because some incident reminds you of the assault. You may react to the assault immediately, or you may have a delayed reaction. How you are affected, and for how long, will depend on many factors: the circumstances and nature of the assault, the identity of the assailant, the response of relatives and friends and your life experience.

It may be helpful for you to talk about your feelings with someone who can provide support and understand what you've been through. Who you talk to is a matter of choice - it could be a supportive friend or relative, a health-care provider, a counselor, or anyone with whom you feel comfortable. Through the Rape Crisis Center, you can call and discuss your feelings and situation anonymously with a telephone counselor, or you can meet with a counselor for short-term supportive counseling, or you can attend a support group to meet with other survivors of sexual assault. Many victims find support and discover their strengths by being able to talk about their experiences.

Physical trauma: It is not unusual to have muscle soreness and stiffness following an assault. If bruises begin to show up on your body, if you experience pain, or if you have vaginal or rectal bleeding, consult a physician immediately. If you seek medical care related to the assault, and the assault was reported, you should also contact the officer or detective handling your case, and let her/him know about this. Any medical examination concerning injuries received during the assault is relevant to your case. Also, if you have bruises, whether or not they require medical attention, the police may want them photographed to provide evidence in court.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI'S)

It is important that you be tested for sexually transmitted infections regardless of whether or not you choose to report the assault to the police. Tests done for STI's immediately after you were assaulted will only determine whether you had an infection before the assault. This information can be helpful if you go to court, but for your health's sake, you need to have follow-up tests done two weeks and six weeks after the assault. You may choose to be tested for gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis.

Gonorrhea: It is possible to contract gonorrhea through oral, anal, or vaginal penetration, so it is important that you advise the nurse or physician of the nature of the assault. Cervical, anal, or throat swabs will be done in order to test for this infection. The incubation period is from two to ten days, and test results are available in three to ten days. Gonorrhea shows few, if any, early symptoms in women; in men there may be a burning pain on urination and/or a discharge from the urethra, although many men also show no early signs. Gonorrhea is easily treated with antibiotics in its early stages, but can have serious long-term effects if left untreated.

Chlamydia: This is the most prevalent sexually transmitted infection in the United States; it is similar to gonorrhea, but far more common. Since it is possible to contract chlamydia through vaginal or anal penetration, cervical or anal swabs will be done to test for this disease. There are rarely any symptoms in its early stages; when symptoms do occur, they are usually pain on urination and/or discharge from the urethra. The incubation period is 7 to 21 days, and test results are available in 2 weeks. Chlamydia, like gonorrhea, is easily treated with antibiotics in its early stages, but has serious long-term effects if untreated.

Syphilis: It is possible to contract syphilis through oral, anal, or vaginal penetration. Testing for this infection is done through a blood test. The incubation period is three weeks to three months, and test results are usually available in five to ten days. The primary symptom, the chancre, is a usually painless sore that appears where the syphilis bacteria first entered the body, usually on the mucous membranes of the genitals or mouth. It may or may not be noticeable to you. Syphilis is uncommon in Dane County; it is easily treated in its early stages — usually with penicillin.

Herpes simplex: If you experience painful sores or blisters around your genitals or mouth, you should also be tested for herpes simplex. The test for herpes is an examination of fluid from the blisters, and blood test to distinguish herpes from syphilis. You can only be tested for herpes when the blisters appear, which can be weeks or months after the assault. If you have herpes you can be given pain relievers; in addition, Acyclovir is a treatment that can diminish the intensity of the symptoms. While a cure for herpes has not yet been developed, you should discuss treatment options with your physician.

Pregnancy: Fear of pregnancy as a result of sexual assault is a legitimate concern for many women; however, the fear often outweighs the actual risk of getting pregnant. There is only a ten percent chance of pregnancy during ovulation, and a four percent chance during the rest of the menstrual cycle, therefore the risk of becoming pregnant as the result of a sexual assault is low.

A pregnancy test done at the hospital immediately following the assault will only determine if you were pregnant before the assault. If you were not using birth control pills or an IUD, and you were at a high-risk point in your cycle when you were assaulted, there are post-coital medications that can be taken to prevent a pregnancy from occurring. These are estrogen compounds that must be taken within 72 hours, ideally within 24 hours, following the assault to be effective.

All post-coital medications may cause serious defects in a fetus if the woman is already pregnant. Make sure you discuss all risks and side effects with the SANE nurse or doctor before taking any post-coital medications so that you can make an informed decision. The earliest symptom of pregnancy is usually a missed menstrual period. Keep in mind that the trauma of a sexual assault may have caused a disruption in your menstrual cycle.

There are two types of pregnancy tests: blood tests, which first become accurate when taken 7 to 21 days following the intercourse suspected of having caused pregnancy; and urine tests, which can be done two weeks following the intercourse suspected of having caused pregnancy. Any result of a home pregnancy test should be verified for accuracy by a health care practitioner.

HIV: HIV stands for the human immunodeficiency virus. People who are infected with HIV often have no symptoms and look healthy. It can take up to 10 years or more for a person who is infected with the virus to become ill with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (Aids).

There are three major ways a person could become infected with HIV.

These are:

1. Through unprotected anal, vaginal or oral sexual intercourse.
2. Through the exchange of blood, primarily by sharing needles during drug use.
3. From an infected woman to her fetus during pregnancy or birth.

Remember, it is impossible to contract HIV from a sexual assault if the assailant is not carrying the virus.

Testing for HIV is done via a blood test. It takes 3 to 12 months after an exposure for HIV antibodies to show up on a blood test. Therefore, testing at the time of the assault will only indicate your HIV status prior to the assault (baseline test).

Sexual assault survivors who have questions about their possible exposure to HIV, or who are considering HIV testing can contact the *Wisconsin AIDS hotline 1-800-334-2437* for referrals to test sites which provide confidential and/or anonymous testing as well as pre and post test counseling so a survivor can make an informed choice regarding testing. The Rape Crisis Center can provide a counselor to support a survivor in making decisions about testing, and who can accompany a survivor for counseling and testing.

In cases where there is a significant risk of exposure the law allows for a defendant to be tested for the presence of the HIV virus, and for those results to be disclosed to a physician designated by the victim.

Because of the importance of pre and post test counseling, HIV testing should not be done at the time of the medical forensic exam. Options for HIV testing are available through the AIDS hotline listed previously.

POLICE PROCEDURES

The Reporting Process - If you wish to report a sexual assault, you should call the police as soon as possible. Do not bathe, shower, douche, or even touch anything that may be connected with the assault (bedclothes, articles the assailant may have touched, etc.).

A uniformed officer will gather general information about the assault, and a detective will conduct a more detailed interview. You may have a counselor from the Rape Crisis Center with you during the interviews. Don't worry about waiting, the counselor will arrive in a very short time and join you and the officer or detective.

The Investigation - The officer or detective assigned to investigate the assault will conduct an in-depth interview. The in-depth interview is one of the most important phases of the investigation and will cover all the details of the assault. The questions asked of you may be difficult to answer, but are designed to help you accurately recall the

incident. Feel free to request an explanation if you don't understand why a question is asked.

The detective will complete the investigation by interviewing everyone who may have information about the assault, including the assailant, if it was someone you, or another witness was able to identify. When you don't know who the assailant is, you may be asked to look at photographs or view an in-person lineup. You may also be asked to help a police artist develop a sketch of the assailant.

The Medical Examination and Forensic Evidence Collection - If you were sexually assaulted, a medical exam is recommended to meet your health care needs. If you are reporting the assault and consent to have a medical forensic evidence exam you will be examined for any injuries, foreign hair samples, semen, and other body fluids, etc. (any evidence found will help make a stronger court case). In addition, concerns about pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections should be discussed with the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner or medical provider at the time of the exam.

In Dane County, the police will recommend you go to Meriter Hospital to access the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program. SANE nurses are specially trained to perform the evidence collection and health assessments of assault victims.

If you go to the emergency room in the clothes worn during the assault, you should take a change of clothes with you; the clothes you were wearing at the time of the assault by the police as part of the evidence in the case. Any articles collected as evidence will be held until your case is closed.

The nurse will explain the medical exam and evidence collection procedure to you. A police officer will be present at the hospital; you may choose whether or not to allow the police officer into the exam room. You will be allowed to have a support person, such as a friend or Rape Crisis Center counselor with you during the exam.

The District Attorney - Once an investigation is completed, the police will let you know if they have sent the reports to the District Attorney's office. The DA's office is responsible for deciding whether to issue charges in the case. The DA must decide whether there is enough evidence to prove the charge(s) in court. A decision not to prosecute does not mean that the DA doesn't believe that you were assaulted, but only that there is insufficient evidence to prove it. You may request a meeting with the DA to discuss the charging decision.

If the DA decides to issue a charge or charges, a complaint is drafted, and the suspect can then be arrested or given a summons to appear in court.

Following the suspect's (hereinafter referred to as the defendant) initial appearance in court, one lawyer from the District Attorney's office will be prosecuting the case. In many ways, s/he acts as your attorney at no cost to you. Technically, however, s/he

represents the State of Wisconsin, and you are considered a witness for the State. Feel free to contact the DA with any questions you may have.

Crime Victim Compensation Program - A sexual assault victim may be compensated for medical, hospital, surgical, psychological, and drug expenses and/or lost wages (not compensated by another source), which are incurred as a result of being the victim of a crime. Victims can also be compensated for the replacement value of any physical evidence held by the police. In order to qualify for compensation, you must:

1. have reported the crime to the police within five days of its occurrence; (If not reporting, you may be eligible to have medical costs covered by the SAFE fund - contact the Crime Victim Compensation Program).
2. apply for the compensation within one year of the crime; and
3. be willing to cooperate with the law enforcement investigation.

These requirements may be waived for sexual assault victims, so it is important that you apply even if you are not certain that you are eligible (for example, the Compensation Program may be willing to consider an assault not reported within the five-day limit). An award may be made even if the assailant is not prosecuted or convicted.

The Rape Crisis Center or the District Attorney's office can provide you with information, forms, and assistance in applying for benefits of the Crime Victim Compensation Program. You may also contact the Compensation Program directly:

Crime Victim Compensation Program
P.O. Box 7951
Madison, WI 53707-7951
(608) 264-9497
V/TTY (608) 267-8902
Wisconsin Toll-free 1 (800) 446-6564

COURT PROCEDURES

The Initial Appearance - The defendant will have an initial appearance on the first day the courts are in session after his arrest. Some defendants, instead of being arrested, are issued a summons to appear in court on a specific date. During this initial appearance, the defendant is formally charged with a crime or crimes. You are not required to attend this hearing.

If the defendant has a lawyer, this person (referred to as the defense attorney) will be in court to represent the defendant. If the defendant cannot afford to hire an attorney, the court (judge) will appoint one for him.

Bail will be set on the charge(s). The bail is the amount of money or property the defendant will have to turn over to the court if they fail to appear at all required court proceedings. In Dane County, almost all defendants will be released on bail. The DA may

request certain bail conditions, such as that the defendant have no further contact with you.

The Defense Attorney - The defendant will be represented by an attorney. There may be occasions when you and your family will be contacted by a representative of the defendant — either his attorneys or an investigator. You are not required to talk with any person representing the defendant; anything you say can be used against you in court. If anyone wants to talk to you about the case, ask who they are and who they are working for. If you have any questions, you can call the District **Attorney's office and ask if the person works for the D.A.'s office.**

The Preliminary Hearing - The preliminary hearing is held for felony cases within ten days of the defendant's initial appearance if the defendant is in custody, or usually within 45 days if the defendant is released on bail.. The purpose of the preliminary hearing is to establish "probable cause" to believe that a felony crime was committed and the defendant probably committed it. The defendant will be present, but will not be testifying. All adult court proceedings are open to the public, so spectators may also be present.

You will be asked to testify about the assault at the preliminary hearing. The D.A. will meet with you the day of, or a day or two before the preliminary hearing to update you on the procedure.

At the hearing, you will be questioned by both the DA and the defense attorney. Take your time answering, and don't worry if you can't remember every detail. It's important to say you don't know or don't remember something than to guess at an answer.

If the judge decides that "probable cause" has been established by the end of the hearing, the defendant will be "bound over" for further proceedings in Circuit Court. If the judge decides that "probable cause" has not been established, the judge will dismiss the charge(s).

In some cases, the defendant chooses to waive his right to a preliminary hearing. If this happens, no one is questioned at the hearing, and the case is automatically "bound over" for further proceedings.

The Arraignment - **The arraignment is a hearing at which the defendant enters a "plea" on the charge(s). He can plead "not guilty", "guilty", or "not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect". No testimony is taken at an arraignment and victims are not required to be present.**

Note: In a misdemeanor case, the initial appearance and the arraignment are combined into one hearing, which the victim is not required to attend. Misdemeanors do not have preliminary hearings.

Pre-Trial Conferences -Pre-trial conferences are formally scheduled meetings between the defendant, defense attorney, and DA to discuss the resolution of a case. Possible resolutions are: the defendant deciding to plead guilty to the charge(s); the defendant continuing to plead not guilty — ultimately resulting in the case going to **trial**.

At any point after the preliminary hearing, the defense attorney and the DA may work out a *plea bargain*.

If the DA is considering a *plea bargain*, s/he should tell you about it, and you should let the DA know how you feel about it. A *plea bargain* can be to your advantage, particularly if your case will be very difficult to prove, or if you really don't want to testify in court. Plea negotiations include discussions of the willingness of the defendant to plead guilty, the charge(s) the defendant will plead guilty to, and recommendation for sentencing.

Pre-Trial Motions - Both the DA and the defense attorney can bring legal motions either to allow certain evidence to be introduced or to keep specific evidence from being presented at the trial. This evidence may include such things as statements made by the defendant, articles found during a search of the suspect, his vehicle or residence, additional charges or prior convictions of the defendant, etc.

Pre-trial motions are presented to the judge during separate hearings. You may choose to attend any motions hearings in your case; in some cases, you may be needed to testify at a motions hearing — if so, the DA will notify you in advance.

The Trial - Both the defense attorney and the DA can ask to have the trial date postponed in order to prepare further motions or because a set date is inconvenient. Trial dates may be set and then postponed more than once, and without prior notice, and this may be very frustrating to you. In Dane County, most cases are resolved within a year, although some cases may take as long as two years. Cases in which the defendant pleads guilty are usually resolved more quickly than cases that go to trial.

You and the RCC counselor will probably meet with the DA again before the trial, so that you understand what will happen and what is expected of you at the trial. During the trial, you and all other witnesses will be required to testify in open court. Both the DA and the defense attorney will ask you questions, and you will be expected to give a complete, detailed account of the assault. The defense attorney's questions are generally designed to attack the credibility of a victim or witness and may be difficult for you to hear. Either attorney may object to questions s/he considers legally improper. If either attorney makes an objection, you should wait until the judge sustains the objection (you do not answer) or overrules the objection (you are required to answer). Trust that the D.A. will follow-up after the defense attorney has questioned you, with any questions s/he feels are necessary to give the most accurate and truthful information to the judge and/or jury.

The results of your medical examination, laboratory analysis, and the testimony of other witnesses may also be presented at the trial. The DA has the burden of proving the charge(s) against the defendant “beyond a reasonable doubt”. The defendant is not required to present any defense and is not required to testify.

At the end of the trial, the judge or a 12-person jury (if it was a jury trial) pronounces the verdict of guilty or not guilty. In a criminal case, the jury verdict must be unanimous. If the defendant is found guilty, the judge may sentence the defendant immediately or may order a pre-sentence investigation before sentencing the defendant at a later date.

The Pre-Sentence Investigation - A pre-sentence investigation is an investigation of the defendant’s background, previous convictions, and psychological history, conducted by a probation and parole agent from the Division of the Department of Correction who prepares and submits a written report to the judge. The pre-sentence report must include a section entitled “Victim Impact”. You will be given an opportunity to discuss with the agent any physical, psychological, and economic effects on your life, and your feelings and opinions regarding sentencing. The agent will include this information in her/his report to the court so that the judge may consider it when deciding on an appropriate sentence.

The Sentencing - The trial judge is responsible for sentencing the defendant. You may attend this hearing if you wish. The judge has a number of alternatives concerning sentencing, including a term of incarceration in prison or jail, or a term of probation under the supervision of a Probation and Parole Agent. The judge may set conditions of probation which may include psychiatric treatment, drug and alcohol treatment, no contact with children, etc.

The Appeal - Once the case is completed, a convicted person has the right to appeal his conviction or sentence. The State, as represented by the District Attorney, does not have the right to appeal a finding of not guilty or appeal the sentence.

SEXUAL ASSAULT LAWS OF WISCONSIN

Wisconsin State Statutes recognize that sexual assaults occur under a variety of circumstances. Sexual Assault includes both sexual intercourse and sexual contact.

The penalty, or sentence, for sexual assault may include incarceration, a fine, probation, supervision, psychiatric counseling, and restitution.

First Degree Sexual Assault is a felony and includes:

- sexual intercourse or sexual contact without consent which causes pregnancy or great bodily harm, or
- sexual intercourse or sexual contact without consent accomplished by use or threat of use of a dangerous weapon, or

- sexual intercourse or sexual contact without consent while aided or abetted by one or more persons through the use or threat of force or violence.

Second Degree Sexual Assault is a felony and includes:

- sexual intercourse or sexual contact without consent through the use or threat of force or violence, or
- sexual intercourse or sexual contact without consent which causes injury, illness, disease, or impairment of a sexual or reproductive organ, or mental anguish requiring psychiatric care, or
- sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person known by the perpetrator to be unconscious or to suffer from a mental illness or deficiency which renders that person temporarily or permanently incapable of appraising the person's conduct, or
- sexual intercourse or sexual contact without consent while aided or abetted by one or more person, or
- sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person who is a patient or resident of an inpatient facility or a state treatment facility by a perpetrator who is an employee of that facility.

Third Degree Sexual Assault is a felony and is defined as sexual intercourse with a person without consent of that person, or sexual contact involving intentional penile ejaculation with a person without consent of that person.

Fourth Degree Sexual Assault is a misdemeanor and is defined as sexual contact, except for sexual contact as described under third degree sexual assault, with a person without consent of that person.

Consent - The law defines the word "consent" as words or overt actions by a person who is competent to give informed consent indicating a freely given agreement to have sexual intercourse or sexual contact. People who have a mental illness or deficiency which impairs their capacity to appraise personal conduct and people who are unconscious or physically unable to communicate are presumed to be incapable of consent, but that presumption can be challenged in court.

Sexual Intercourse - The definition of sexual intercourse has been expanded to include an intrusion, however slight, into a person's genital or anal openings by any object or part of another person's body, or oral-genital contact. This intrusion may be caused by the direct act of the assailant or may occur as a result of an act by a victim who is obeying the assailant's instructions.

Sexual Contact - The law defines sexual contact in two ways: any intentional touching of the intimate parts of a person, either directly or through clothing, by any body part or

by any object, if that intentional touching is for the purpose of sexually degrading or humiliating the victim, or for the sexual arousal or gratification of the assailant, or if the intentional touching contains the elements of actual or attempted battery; or intentional penile ejaculation of ejaculate or intentional emission of urine or feces by the assailant upon any part of the victim's body, clothed or unclothed, if that ejaculation or emission is either for the purpose of sexually degrading or humiliating the victim or for the sexual arousal or gratification of the assailant.

Evidence Of Victim's Past Sexual Conduct - Wisconsin State Statute 972.11 prohibits the use of evidence of the victim's past sexual conduct in court except in limited instances. Sexual conduct, by the law's definition, means any conduct or behavior relating to sexual activities of the victim, including but not limited to prior experience of sexual intercourse or sexual contact, use of contraceptives, living arrangement and life-style.

A judge may allow evidence of a victim's past sexual conduct for the following purposes: to show a victim's past sexual conduct with the defendant; to show the source or origin of semen, pregnancy or disease only for use in determining the degree of sexual assault; to show prior untruthful allegations of sexual assault made by a victim; and any other reason a judge may find to be relevant to the case.

In addition, the defense attorney who wants to question a victim in any of these allowable areas of past sexual conduct must first petition the judge in a pre-trial motion. The judge will determine whether or not these questions can be asked in court.

Gender Of Victim - The law makes no reference to the gender of either victim or assailant. Therefore, both female and male victims of sexual assault are protected by the law, and both female and male assailants can be prosecuted under the law.

Spouses - Marriage is not a bar to prosecution for sexual assault. A person may be prosecuted for sexually assaulting his/her spouse.

SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A CHILD

Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 948 includes sexual assault and all other crimes against children.

First Degree Sexual Assault Of A Child is a felony and is defined as sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a child who has not attained the age of 13 years.

Second Degree Sexual Assault Of A Child is a felony and is defined as sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a child who has not attained the age of 16 years.

Sexual Intercourse With A Child Age 16 Or Older when the intercourse is consensual and the person is 16 or 17 years old is a misdemeanor.

Sexual Assault Of A Student By A School Instructional Staff Person is defined as sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a child who is at least 16 years old who is enrolled as a student in a school or school district in which the assailant is a member of the school or school district staff. .

Incest With A Child is defined as marriage or sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a child the assailant knows is related, either by blood or adoption, and the child is related in a degree of kinship closer than second cousin, or is a person responsible for the child's welfare and has knowledge that incest may or has occurred and is capable of taking action yet fails to take protective action.

Causing a Child to View or Listen to Sexual Activity is defined as intentionally causing a child to view or listen to sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the perpetrator or humiliating or degrading the victim.

Soliciting a Child for Prostitution is defined as intentionally soliciting or causing any child to practice prostitution or establishing a child in a place of prostitution is a felony.

Statutes Of Limitations For Sexual Assault Crimes — The legal amount of time in which a victim/survivor can make a report to the police for consideration of criminal charges or bring a civil suit against a perpetrator is called the “statute of limitations.”

Criminal Case: Felony cases not involving the sexual assault of an adult must be commenced within six years of the crime.

Misdemeanor cases must be commenced within three years of the crime.

Statute of Limitations are subject to legislative change and amendments. For questions regarding the above statute of limitations, or statutes of limitations for civil or childhood sexual assault cases, exploitation by professionals, etc. contact the D.A.'s office or the Rape Crisis Center.

RESOURCES

Dane County District Attorney's Office

City-County Building, Room 523
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53710
(608) 266-4211

Victim/Witness Unit. This unit of the District Attorney's office has specialist who work with you as the victim/witness to an assault. They can provide orientation to the legal system, case status, information, liaison with the D.A. working with you, notification of

court hearings, preparation for testifying in court, accompaniment to court, and referrals to other community resources.

Hospital Emergency Rooms

Meriter – Park Street (608) 267 – 6206
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program (SANE) (608) 417-5916
St. Mary’s (608) 258-6800
UW Hospitals (608) 262-2398

Other Health Care Services

Madison Community Health (608) 261-9270
Blue Bus (UW/Community members)(608) 265-5600
Planned Parenthood (608) 256-7257

Police Departments

These are non-emergency office numbers for the following law enforcement agencies. In an emergency, dial 911.

Dane County Sheriff (608) 255-2345
Madison Police Dept. (608) 255-2345
University of Wisconsin (608) 262-2957

Rape Crisis Center

24-hour crisis line (608) 251-7273

Business office: 2801 Coho Street, Suite 301
Madison, WI 53713
(608) 251-5126
Fax: (608) 251-6229
e-mail – info@danecountyrcc.org
website – danecountyrcc.org

RCC provides the following services

- 24 hour medical and legal accompaniment and support: for any victim of sexual assault wanting support or advocacy as they receive services or participate in procedure of the medical, law enforcement or criminal justice systems. We also provide sexual harassment-related school and workplace accompaniment and advocacy.
- Supportive counseling: for victims of recent or past sexual assaults, childhood sexual assaults, their families, friends or partners.

- 24 hour telephone crisis line: a place to call for support, information and referral.
- Support groups: for adult survivors of sexual assault or childhood sexual assault.